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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Troops in and Near Košice

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REPORT

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1. At the artillery barracks in Košice there is now stationed a Czech artillery regiment, fully motorized. It is equipped with 122 mm howitzers.
2. At the former Hungarian air academy there is a reinforcement and assignment command. In August 1952, 400 to 450 men were brought here to be assigned to various arms. Half of them were older men who had served in the Slovak or Hungarian Armies, particularly artillerists. The other half belonged to various arms. All were from the classes 1923 to 1925.
3. There are other troops in Košice besides the artillery regiment, but data on these are uncertain.
4. There is a large military camp with an exercise area attached in the valley of the Hornád River, about six km southeast of Košice, near the Sátoraljaujhely-Košice road, in a wood. The camp contains a number of wooden barracks and large numbers of tents are added in the summer.
5. This camp contained camp artillery refresher training, reconnaissance training regiment, with a regimental staff and a refresher training section. The section was divided into a commander, a deputy commander, a political officer, a defense officer, an adjutant, a weapons officer, a quartermaster administration, medical officer and assistants, 25 to 30 men all told. There is also a staff battery, 65 men; section formations, consisting of: a motorized communications platoon with a telephone and a radio squad; a motorized reconnaissance platoon of two squads; a ranging platoon with two squads; 1st Battery of 110 men (Commander Lt. (fnu) Klorac); 2nd Battery, 100 to 105 men (Commander Lt. (fnu) Vrenek); 3rd Battery, 95 to 100 men. Also a train column with two squads. The auto park has four personnel cars, Skodas; five half-tracks for towing; nine Jawa motorcycles; seven small trucks; and 15 three-ton trucks. The auto park was incomplete, 55 to 60 new trucks being expected.

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6. Each battery had four machine pistols, one light machine gun, four cases of hand grenades, four bazookas Czech-made on Russian pattern, and 122 mm howitzers.
7. The reservists had very little theoretical training. They were sent at once to the guns to learn practical handling. There was little political training.
8. The regiment has two other sections, but their location is uncertain.

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July 1945

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